are functioning in the jails. Besides emergency services are provided round the clock. There is also a 50 bedded hospital in Central Jail No. 3 for indoor treatment of the prisoners.

[*English*]

Bilateral relations with Japan

2579. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/being by the Government to strengthen further bilateral relations with Japan; and

(b) the response of Japan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) India has sought to strengthen and deepen bilateral relations with Japan through exchange of high level visits, imparting momentum to economic cooperation with Japan and through cultural and academic interaction, I visited Japan in January, 1992 and held useful and constructive discussions with the Foreign Minister of Japan. I also met the Prime Minister of Japan and senior Japanese Ministers. The Prime Minister has accepted an invitation from the Japanese Prime Minister to visit Japan. The 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan and the signing of the India-Japan Treaty of Perpetual Peace and Amity is being commemorated this year.

(b) The Japanese Government have stated that it is their intention to further deepen and broaden Japan's relations with India over a broad range of fields. They have expressed appreciation of the economic liberalisation policies undertaken by the Government of India. A high level economic mission was sent to India in January, 1992 by Japan to explore ways and means for promoting trade and investment between India and Japan and for the strengthening of economic relations and deepening mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

[*Translation*]

Double Bott-Ling Connections

2580. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the criteria being followed for providing double bottling connections (DBC) facility?

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): The target for giving DBCs in a year is fixed keeping in view the product availability.

Institutions for handicapped in Bihar

2581. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to open some more institutions for the welfare of handicapped in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c). The Ministry of Welfare will assist voluntary organisations for the welfare of the handicapped in Bihar if they satisfy the conditions prescribed for the grant of assistance.